

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 185
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, AR, CI
SUBJ: BEAGLE CHANNEL: ARBITRAL COURT'S DISSOLUTION BANNERED IN CHILE; BUENOS AIRES TALKS SUSPENDED

1. CHILEAN PRESS AUGUST 16 QUOTES EXTENSIVELY THE BEAGLE CHANNEL ARBITRAL COURT'S REASONS FOR DISSOLVING ITSELF AND THE UK'S CONCURRENCE THAT THE GROUP HAD FULLY DISCHRGED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. ALSO AUGUST 16, THE PRESS REPORTS THE UNEXPECTED RETURN FROM B.A. OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATION TO THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE "SECOND ROUND" TALKS EARLIER IN THE DAY.

2. A DIPLOMATIC NOTE ROM BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OF AUGUST 8, TRANSMITTING A JULY 10 REPORT FROM THE BEAGLE CHANNEL ARBITRAL COURT TO THE UK AND THE UK'S RESPONSE OF JULY 31, APPRARED IN INFORMAL TRANSLATION IN AUGUST 16 PRESS. G.G. FITZMAURICE, REPRESENTING THE COURT, REVIEWS BRIEFLY THE HISTORY OF THE AWARD AND THE STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE ITS COMPLIANCE. HE CONCLUDES THAT SINCE, DE FACTO, CHILE CONTROLS ALL THE ISLANDS AND OUTCROPPINGS

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SOUTH OF THE CHANNEL DEMARCACTION LINE AND THAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE CLOSED THEIR OFFICE IN GENEVA CHARGED WITH DEALING WITH COURT, THE COURT HAS COMPLIED WITH ITS MANDATE AND IS DISSOLVING ITSELF. IT STATES THAT ANY UNILATERAL ALTERATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE AREA WOULD BE TOTALLY CONTRARY TO THE AWARD AND IT REJECTS THE GOA'S "NULLIFICATION" AS ITSELF NULL AND

INADMISSABLE.

3. IN A FIRST PERSON NOTE OF JULY 31, FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IS QUOTED AS ACCEPTING THE COURT'S CONTENTIONS AND AGREEING THAT FROM THE UK'S POINT OF VIEW, THE AGREEMENT IS IN EFFECT AND HAS BEEN FULFILLED.

4. MEANWHILE, WE ARE GETTING FIRST REPORTS OF THE GOC REACTION TO THE UNEXPECTED INTERRUPTION OF THE TALKS BEGUN IN BUENOS AIRES AUGUST 15. THE GOC PROMISES A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT SINCE THE TALKS WERE PROCEEDING AT CROSS PURPOSES THERE SEEMED LITTLE POINT TO CONTINUE THIS ROUND. THE OFFICIAL DID NOT APPEAR OVERLY CONCERNED AND INDICATED THAT THE CHILEANS HAD TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE DECISION TO SUSPEND THIS WEEK'S ROUND OF TALKS.

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